

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### **ULSTER YOUTHBUILD AWARDED \$395,120**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the Ulster County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) a YouthBuild Implementation Grant in the amount of \$395,120.

"I have seen first-hand the positive things that Ulster YouthBuild has accomplished, said Hinchey. "It teaches young people responsibility and gives them some valuable skills, in addition to improving struggling neighborhoods. I'm happy to help keep this program going."

Ulster YouthBuild recruits low-income young adults ages 16-24 who do not have high school diplomas. These participants receive housing construction training as they rehabilitate houses for low-income families. At the same time they prepare for the GED examination and receive life skills and leadership development training. Among other accomplishments, Ulster YouthBuild has rehabilitated six abandoned homes in mid-town Kingston. Sixty-four participants have graduated from the program since its inception in 1996.

The grant announced today will help Ulster YouthBuild to rehabilitate two more houses in Kingston. One of the projects will be an historic restoration, while the other is being done in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity. Ulster YouthBuild previously received two-year HUD grants in 1995 and 1997 and continues to rely on state and local assistance.

"We're delighted to have HUD funding again after going for two years without it," said Bonnie Landi, Director of Ulster YouthBuild. "Fortunately we had assistance from other sources to keep us going temporarily, but the HUD funding is essential. Congressman Hinchey's strong advocacy on Ulster YouthBuild's behalf was key to our success in this round."